

DOE Weekly Field Memo – March 24, 2010

From the Vermont Department of Education:

- Tier I, Tier II and Tier III School Determination Process
- Common Core Standards for Mathematics and English Language Arts FAQ
- Countywide Truancy Policies Memo
- Challenges for Change Education Design Team Meeting CANCELLED
- Press Release: Vermont among Top Performers on National Reading Assessment
- Reminder: 2010-2011 Regional School Calendars
- Reminder: Professional Development for Career and Technical Education (CTE): Literacy Improvement through Applied Learning Strategies

From the U.S. Department of Education:

- Investing in Innovation Fund (I3) Grant Opportunity
 - Related link from the Nellie Mae Foundation

From the Department for Children and Families:

- Vermont Foster/Adoptive Family Association (VFAPA) Conference

Tier I, Tier II and Tier III School Determination Process

Audience: All

View two documents intended to clarify the recent designation of the state's 10 "persistently low-achieving schools." This ranking was a requirement of the U.S. Department of Education (USED), and the determination process used in Vermont was reviewed and approved by USED in January 2010. The 10 designated schools are eligible for further federal funding and support from the Vermont Department of Education (VTDOE). Application for funding and participation is a local school board decision. To view the complete explanation and methodology, visit:

http://education.vermont.gov/new/html/dept/recovery_act/sfsf.html#determination

Contact: Rae Ann Knopf, Deputy Commissioner of Transformation and Innovation, at (802) 828-5101 or rae.knopf@state.vt.us

Common Core Standards for Mathematics and English Language Arts FAQ

Audience: Principals, Curriculum Coordinators, Educators

The department has received many questions about the newly released drafts of the Common Core Standards. These questions have been compiled into a FAQ document with the information that is known at this point. This document will be updated as new information becomes available. View the complete document at http://education.vermont.gov/new/html/pgm_curriculum.html#cc_faq.

Contact: Gail Taylor at (802) 828-1462 or gail.taylor@state.vt.us; or Marty Gephart at (802) 828-1462 or marty.gephart@state.vt.us

Countywide Truancy Policies Memo

Audience: Principals, Superintendents, Headmasters

In the 2009 Miscellaneous Amendments to Education Law (Act 44, Section 46) the Vermont Legislature required the commissioner to create a study group to examine and develop comprehensive truancy protocols, publish model truancy protocols on the department's Web site and make recommendations to the House and Senate Education Committees on whether any legislation is currently needed to address truancy. **In addition, the commissioner is required to ensure that on or before July 1, 2010 the supervisory unions in each county adopt truancy policies that are consistent with the legislative intent of confronting truancy on a statewide and countywide basis and include the involvement of both the State's attorneys and judiciary.** View the complete memo at:

http://education.vermont.gov/new/html/pgm_truancy.html#memo_032310

Contact: Barbara Crippen, Legal Counsel, at (802) 828-5937 or barbara.crippen@state.vt.us

Challenges for Change Education Design Team Meeting

Audience: All

The Challenges for Change legislation recently passed by the Vermont Legislature required the Commissioner of Education to host a series of meetings. The final meeting, scheduled for March 25, has been **cancelled**. No further meetings are anticipated.

Contact: Cindy Lee, Commissioner's Assistant, at (802) 828-0770 or cindy.lee@state.vt.us

Press Release: Vermont among Top Performers on National Reading Assessment

Audience: All

Reading scores for Vermont students were among the highest in the country on the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP), released today by the U.S. Department of Education's National Center on Educational Statistics (NCES). Overall, only Massachusetts outperformed Vermont on the fourth-grade test, while no other state outperformed Vermont at the eighth-grade level. View the complete release at: http://education.vermont.gov/new/html/dept/press_releases.html.

Contact: Michael Hock at (802) 828-3115 or michael.hock@state.vt.us; or Jill Remick at (802) 828-3154 or jill.remick@state.vt.us

Reminder: 2010-2011 Regional School Calendars

Attention: Superintendents

State statute requires that superintendents of schools and headmasters of public schools not managed by school boards in an area meet annually, and by majority vote, establish – by April 1 – a uniform calendar within that area for the following school year. Approved regional calendars for 2010-2011 should be submitted to Carol King.

Contact: Carol King, State Board Liaison, at (802) 828-5105 or Carol.C.King@state.vt.us

Reminder: Professional Development for Career and Technical Education (CTE): Literacy Improvement through Applied Learning Strategies

Audience: Superintendents, Special Education Directors, Principals, CTE Directors, Teachers

This professional development workshop will emphasize proven strategies to strengthen student writing skills and improve her or his understanding of course content. Dr. Suzanne Doherty of Collins Education Associates will provide practical, ready to-use writing activities and strategies which can be implemented immediately in all technical and/or academic classes. This workshop is free, limited to 38 attendees, and will take place at the Capitol Plaza on April 2, 2010. The link to access the registration and agenda is:

<http://education.vermont.gov/new/html/dept/calendar.html#literacy>.

Andrew Hudacs, (802) 828-3892 or andrew.hudacs@state.vt.us.

From the U.S. Department of Education:

Investing in Innovation Fund (I3) Grant Opportunity

Audience: All

The Investing in Innovation Fund, established under section 14007 of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA), provides funding to support (1) local educational agencies (LEAs), and (2) nonprofit organizations in partnership with (a) one or more LEAs or (b) a consortium of schools. The purpose of this program is to provide competitive grants to applicants with a record of improving student achievement and attainment in order to expand the implementation of, and investment in, innovative practices that are demonstrated to have an impact on improving student achievement or student growth, closing achievement gaps, decreasing dropout rates, increasing high school graduation rates, or increasing college enrollment and completion rates. For more information visit <http://www2.ed.gov/programs/innovation/index.html>.

- **Related link from the Nellie Mae Foundation:**

In the immediate interest of taking advantage of the competitive i3 federal opportunity to support the New England region's districts, schools, and nonprofits that are focused on student-centered learning and the systems changes necessary to deliver that to all students, the Nellie Mae Education Foundation will consider providing all or part of a 20 percent private match of a strong I3 grant proposal from New England for the Investing in Innovation "Development" level award (up to \$5 million) that is aligned with our ideas of student-centered learning. If you know of a consortium of schools or school district(s) partnering with non-profits in New England that are considering the submittal of an i3 proposal aligned with our agenda, please encourage them to send an email to ctoulmin@nmefdn.org with **i3 and nmef** in the subject line, their contact information and a two-page summary of their proposed work.

From the Department for Children and Families:

Vermont Foster/Adoptive Family Association (VFAFA) Conference

Audience: All

The 23rd annual VFAFA Spring Conference will be held at the Sheraton Conference Center in Burlington on April 23-25, 2010. Registration for the conference will be completely on line this year. To register, please go to the VFAFA.org Web site (<http://www.vfafa.org/>) and click on the link to register for Spring Conference.

Contact: Leslie Williams, Foster Family Liaison, Department for Children and Families, at (802) 241-2231 or leslie.williams@ahs.state.vt.us

Weekly Field Memo is Online!

The DOE Weekly Field Memo is archived on the Department of Education Web site at http://education.vermont.gov/new/html/dept/field_memo.html. Field Memos and the corresponding attachments are available for download. For Field Memo information three months or older, or for other questions, please contact Jill Remick, communications director, at (802) 828-3154 or jill.remick@state.vt.us.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

For the Department of Education Web site see: <http://education.vermont.gov/>. For upcoming events or professional development opportunities, see the DOE Calendar of Events located at: <http://education.vermont.gov/new/html/dept/calendar.html>.

Main Department Line: (802) 828-3135

NOTE: For comments or questions specific to the messages above, please contact the person listed. DO NOT reply to this message.

This Field Memo is posted weekly by the Department of Education to better organize our e-communications to the field. There may be times when separate messages from the department will still be sent.